



The Environmental Education Collection: A Review of Resources for Educators

Volume I



**North American Association for
Environmental Education**

The North American Association For Environmental Education

NAAEE is a network of professionals and students working in the field of environmental education throughout North America and in over 50 countries around the world. For more than 25 years, the Association has promoted environmental education and supported the work of environmental educators.

There are many environmental interest groups and many organizations dedicated to the improvement of education. NAAEE combines and integrates both of these perspectives and takes a positive, cooperative, nonconfrontational approach to promoting education about environmental issues.

The Association is made up of people who have thought seriously — over lifetimes — about how people become literate concerning environmental issues. NAAEE members believe education must go beyond consciousness-raising. It must prepare people to think together about the difficult decisions they have to make concerning environmental stewardship, and to work together to improve and solve environmental problems.

NAAEE recognizes the need for a coherent body of information about environmental issues. Its members also recognize that information and analysis are only part of an effective education program. To be truly effective, this body of knowledge must be integrated into all aspects of the curriculum and into all types of educating institutions for the widest array of audiences.

In order to translate theory into reality and provide tangible support for environmental education and environmental educators, NAAEE engages in a variety of programs and activities: The annual conference at varying North American sites, an active publications program, the Environmental Education Training Institute, the VINE (Volunteer-led Investigations of Neighborhood Ecology) Network, the Environmental Issues Forums (EIF) program, NAAEE Skills Bank, and the Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP).

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National Project for Excellence in Environmental Education

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Welcome! With literally thousands of education materials to select from, knowing which ones may be the best for a particular group of students can be a daunting task. *The Environmental Education Collection — A Review of Resources for Educators (Vol. 7)* is designed to help educators find curricula, multimedia resources, and other educational materials that can enhance teaching environmental education in a variety of settings. It is our hope that this resource guide will assist educators as they plan, develop, and implement creative and effective environmental education programs.

The Environmental Education Collection is intended to be the first in a series of resource guides. Each of these guides will provide background information and reviews of some of the most widely available environmental education materials. A companion piece, *The Biodiversity Collection — A Review of Resources for Educators*, is being developed by World Wildlife Fund. *The Biodiversity Collection* includes information on environmental education curriculum materials and resources with a focus on biodiversity.

Why Environmental Education?

Environmental education is effective education. Environmental education is learner-centered, providing students with opportunities to construct their own understandings through hands-on, minds-on investigations. Learners are engaged in direct experiences and are challenged to use higher-order thinking skills. Environmental education supports the development of an active learning community where learners share ideas and expertise, and prompt continued inquiry. Environmental education provides real-world contexts and issues from which concepts and skills can be learned.

Environmental education recognizes the importance of investigating the environment within the context of human influences, incorporating an examination of economics, culture, political structure, and social equity, as well as natural processes and systems. Ultimately, the goal of environmental education is to develop an environmentally literate citizenry. Through comprehensive, cohesive programs, learners:

- explore how feelings, experiences, attitudes and perceptions influence environmental issues
- become knowledgeable about natural processes and systems
- gain an understanding of human processes and systems
- are able to investigate and analyze environmental problems and issues using a variety of techniques
- use basic science and math skills, and explore the nature of bias
- develop a sense of their rights and responsibilities as citizens
- are able to understand the ideals, principles, and practices of citizenship in our democratic republic
- possess the skills necessary for citizenship



Acid Rain

Teacher's Guide



IN A NUTSHELL

Great Explorations in Math
and Science (GEMS)
Lawrence Hall of Science
University of California,
Berkeley
Berkeley, CA 94720-5200

phone: (510) 642-7771
fax: (510) 643-7309
website: www.lhs.berkeley.edu

Cost: \$16.00

SUBJECTS

Mathematics

Science

This book presents an eight-lesson curriculum on the topic of acid rain. Students engage in activities that lead them to: delve into the issue of acid rain, generate possible solutions, critically evaluate those solutions, and then formulate their own opinions about what should be done. The program culminates in a town hall role-play where students portray characters with different points of view and attempt to reach commonly acceptable solutions. The unit is structured in fifty minute lessons with a variety of activities, frequent homework assignments for students, and preparation instructions for teachers. Also includes summary outlines to help organize lessons; data sheets consisting of homework assignments and class handouts; "Going Further", a collection of eight extension activities; and a list of additional resources. Instructors without a background in science or ecology can reference "Behind the Scenes" for background information. Encourages teachers to learn along with their students.

Grade Level

6-10

Length

164 pages

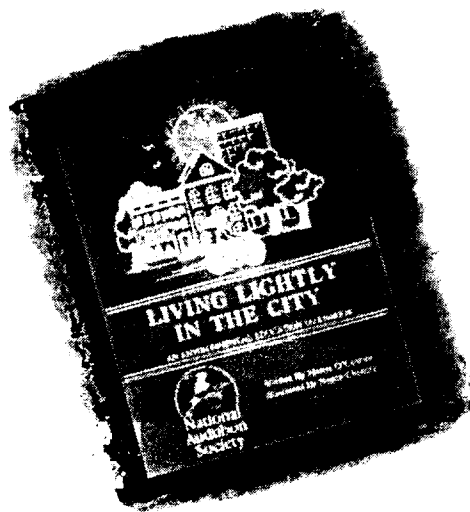
Date Published

revised in 1994

*Data Sheets are also available in Spanish.

THE **BOTTOM**
LINE

"Just about any teacher wanting to do a unit on acid rain can successfully pull it off with this book and some diligent homework."



Living Lightly In The City:

An Environmental Education Guidebook - Volume I



IN A NUTSHELL

Written by: Maura O'Connor

Schlitz Audubon Center
1111 East Brown Deer Road
Milwaukee, WI 53217

phone: (414) 352-2880

fax: (414) 352-6091

Cost: \$22.00

SUBJECTS

Fine Arts

Language Arts

Mathematics

Physical Education

Science

Social Studies

The focus of this curriculum is on helping primary grade students in urban and suburban settings to explore and enjoy nature. The concept of 'living lightly in the city' is to acquire knowledge of one's relationship to the natural world and to use that knowledge effectively when making consumer choices and life-style decisions. The emphasis is on enjoyment and on bringing children to recognize their connection to the natural world. Each of the six units contains seven to eight activities, with focus, skills and subject matter identified for each. Students explore through a combination of indoor and outdoor activities, laboratories, artwork, service projects, and writing assignments. Concepts, objectives, subjects, time requirements, materials and preparation are listed at the beginning of each lesson. Also provided are three posters, references, student worksheets, masters, and a subject index. Some activities have separate instructions for different grades.

Grade Level

K-3

Length

178 pages

Date Published

1993

**THE BOTTOM
LINE**

"Environmental education is ripe with complex subject matter and problems. The materials here set the stage for later investigation."

What The REVIEWERS Said!

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

STRENGTHS NOTED

THINGS TO CONSIDER

Fairness and Accuracy

Includes numerous additional resources.
Balanced presentation.

Depth

Contains curriculum/
conceptual framework.

Little diversity in
approaches or perspectives.

Emphasis On Skills Building

Develops critical thinking
skills at an appropriate level.
Encourages questioning.

Action Orientation

Take-home sheets promote
responsibility and awareness.

Instructional Soundness

Encourages use of different
learning styles. Activities
emphasize fun and an
affective approach.

Usability

Provides goals, objectives,
outlines, materials and
activity sheets. Activities
are simple and low-cost.

Could benefit from a
glossary. Extension
activities are mostly for
classroom.

"Tends to leave out preaching and to focus on knowledge and enjoyment."

"There is an extreme shortage of good EE material for early elementary grades.
More of this material is needed."